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<http://www.bls.gov/ro5>

TRANSMISSION OF MATERIAL IN  
THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL  
8:30 A.M. ET  
Friday, February 20, 2004

**Consumer Price Index for Energy and Food  
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI CMSA  
January 2004**

Energy costs in the Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint Metropolitan Area advanced 5.0 percent in January, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. The large increase in this volatile index follows consecutive monthly setbacks of 3.9 percent in October and November and 1.9 percent in December 2003. Overall energy costs rose 10.4 percent over the past 12 months and were up 25.1 percent in the past two years (January 2002-January 2004).

Almost all of the January gain in energy costs was attributed to an 11.1 percent hike in Detroit area gasoline prices. The large increase follows three sharp monthly declines at the end of 2003 totaling 16.8 percent. Over the past year, gasoline prices rose 8.0 percent after posting a 25.8 percent jump in the previous 12 months ended in January 2003. This leaves Detroit area gasoline price levels 35.9 percent above their most recent January low point in 2002.

Electricity costs were unchanged in January and have remained at this level each January since 2001. In contrast, utility gas service costs rose 0.5 percent in January. This left utility gas service costs 25.1 percent above their year-ago level and 55.9 percent above their most recent January low in 2001.

The cost of grocery food (food at home) edged-up 0.1 percent in January and was 2.8 percent above its year-ago level. This follows a small 0.8 percent setback in the previous 12 month period.

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Scheduled release date for February 2004 CPI:  
Wednesday, March 17, 2004

### CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Detroit area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI Hotline service. This recorded message also provides percent changes from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Detroit is (313) 226-7558.

### BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 300 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 27 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880 option 1 and order document 1000.

### BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain an U.S. City average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 27 local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each base period.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date - 1982-84 - that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the *BLS Handbook of Methods*, Bulletin 2490, April 1997, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index.

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods**

**Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Jan. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	-	181.3	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100) .....	-	538.9	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	-	176.2	-	-	-	-
Food .....	-	175.7	-	-	-	-
Food at home .....	175.3	176.3	176.4	2.8	0.6	0.1
Food away from home .....	-	175.7	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	-	177.7	-	-	-	-
Housing .....	-	172.5	-	-	-	-
Shelter .....	199.5	199.8	201.4	.8	1.0	.8
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	191.4	190.3	190.8	.8	-.3	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	206.8	207.4	207.4	.0	.3	.0
Fuels and utilities .....	-	160.6	-	-	-	-
Fuels .....	132.4	131.4	131.9	12.7	-.4	.4
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	135.0	133.8	134.2	12.8	-.6	.3
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	125.4	125.4	125.4	.0	.0	.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	147.7	145.4	146.1	25.1	-1.1	.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	-	113.7	-	-	-	-
Apparel .....	-	120.8	-	-	-	-
Transportation .....	-	170.3	-	-	-	-
Private transportation .....	-	168.8	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel .....	129.5	125.3	139.1	8.0	7.4	11.0
Gasoline (all types) .....	128.9	124.7	138.5	8.0	7.4	11.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	130.8	126.7	141.1	8.4	7.9	11.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	144.8	139.3	154.1	7.2	6.4	10.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	129.1	124.8	137.4	7.3	6.4	10.1
Medical care .....	-	295.8	-	-	-	-
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	-	118.2	-	-	-	-
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	-	116.5	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services .....	-	303.7	-	-	-	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	-	181.3	-	-	-	-
Commodities .....	-	146.7	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	-	131.0	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	-	145.2	-	-	-	-
Durables .....	-	111.8	-	-	-	-
Services .....	-	217.8	-	-	-	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	-	176.5	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter .....	-	176.4	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food .....	-	132.8	-	-	-	-
Nondurables .....	-	160.5	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food .....	-	147.2	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	-	243.8	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services .....	-	211.2	-	-	-	-
Energy .....	132.3	129.8	136.3	10.4	3.0	5.0
All items less energy .....	-	189.0	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy .....	-	192.2	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.